

Message Text

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22

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 /074 W

----- 109018

R 080922Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3768

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, SO

SUBJECT: OMAR ARTEH OUSTED

1. OMAR ARTEH HAS BEEN DISMISSED AS SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER (SECSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS). ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE ON MOGADISCIO RADIO MORNING OF APRIL 8. NO REPLACEMENT HAS YET BEEN NAMED BUT WE ASSUME THAT NEW SECSTATE WILL BE HUSSEIN ABDULKHADIRT ASIM, WHO IS CURRENTLY SECSTATE FOR MINERALS BUT WHO HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY ACTIVE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS DURING PAST SIX MONTHS.

2. ARTEH WILL MOVE TO POL OFFICE OF PRESIDENCY, WHERE HE WILL PROBABLY BE GIVEN AN ADVISORY ROLE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

3. WE HAVE EXPECTED ARTEH'S DEPARTURE FOR SOME TIME (MOG 1548, NOVEMBER 75). WHILE ARTEH IS HIGHLY RESPECTED IN ARAB CAPITALS -- AND ESPECIALLY JIDDA -- AND IS WELL KNOWN AND POPULAR FIGURE IN OAU CIRCLES, HE HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN AS EFFECTIVE IN SELLING SOMALIA TO CONSERVATIVE ARAB WORLD AS SIAD WOULD LIKE. HE HAS HAD LITTLE PERSONAL IMPACT ON SOMALI FOREIGN POLICY AND HAS NO RPT

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NO POWER POSITION IN SOMALIA. NOT AN IDEOLOGUE HIMSELF, ARTEH

HAS HAD LITTLE SYMPATHY WITH SOME ASPECTS OF SIAD'S POLICY -- HIS SOVIET RELATIONSHIP, FOR EXAMPLE -- AND WOULD HAVE DRAWN CLOSER TO ARAB WORLD IF SIAD'S POLICIES HAD MADE THAT POSSIBLE.

4. ARTEH'S DEPARTURE MAY MEAN A CHANGE IN STYLE OF SOMALI FOREIGN POLICY AND PERHAPS SOME IMPROVEMENT IN ITS EXECUTION BUT LITTLE ELSE. ARTEH HAS LONG BEEN FAMILIAR FIGURE IN AFFICAN AND ARAB FORUMS BUT HE HAS MADE NO PERMANENT MARK ON EITHER. SAME IS TRUE OF HIS POSITION AS SOMALI FONMIN. A CHANGE HAS LONG BEEN DUE. LOUGHRAN

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